

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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June 21, 2006

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002 – 4239

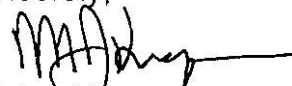
Dear Chairman Mendelson:

As you know, the SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) legislation enacted on August 10, 2005 contained a number of provisions affecting transportation conformity to State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for demonstrating attainment of national air quality standards. One provision requires an action on the part of state air agencies to file a 'conformity SIP' with EPA within two years of SAFETEA-LU enactment. This conformity SIP documents consultation procedures for DOT, MPOs and other State and local agencies to assess the conformity of transportation plans, programs, and projects.

Based on briefings by MWAQC staff at the June 2006 meetings of the TPB and its Technical Committee, the TPB understands that the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia air management agencies have begun this process of updating existing conformity SIPs for each of the three jurisdictions, and that the agencies have targeted March 2007 as the SIP submittal date. The TPB appreciates the efforts of the state air management agencies in meeting the SAFETEA-LU requirement of updating each conformity SIP, and requests that it be provided the opportunity of reviewing the draft conformity SIP documents when they are ready.

The TPB looks forward to continuing the close technical and policy working relationships with MWAQC as we move forward in meeting our clean air objectives.

Sincerely,



Michael Knapp
Chair, National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board